

Under the Paperwork Reduction Project of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1
-------	---

of	4
----	---

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/074.068
--------------------	------------

Filing Date	2/12/02
-------------	---------

First Named Inventor	Xuecheng Liang
----------------------	----------------

Art Unit	1742
----------	------

Examiner Name	Deborah Yee
---------------	-------------

Attorney Docket Number	1655.3002.001
------------------------	---------------

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	†
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
DT		Abstract JP06256889	09-13-1994	Kimura Hiroyuki	Abstract	
		JP 06256889	09-13-1994	Kimura Hiroyuki	Abstract	
		Abstract JP10068041	03-10-1998	Tsujimoto Yutak	Abstract	
		JP 1068041	03-10-1998	Tsukimoto Yutak	Abstract	
		EP 0 430 241 A1	06-05-1991	Hitachi Metals	Abstract	
		EP 0 665 068 A1	08-02-1995	Hitachi Metals	Abstract	

**Examiner
Signature**

Deborah Lee

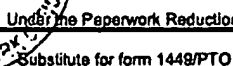
Date
Considered

5-25-05

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinda Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.



(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2

of 4

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/074,068
Filing Date	2/12/02
First Named Inventor	Xuecheng Liang
Art Unit	1742
Examiner Name	Deborah Yee
Attorney Docket Number	1655.3002.001

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

5-25-05

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 509. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1448/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 3

of 4

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/074,068
Filing Date	2/12/02
First Named Inventor	Xuecheng Liang
Art Unit	1742
Examiner Name	Deborah Yee
Attorney Docket Number	1655.3002.001

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ^o
		Country Code ¹ Number ² Kind Code ³ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY			
DY		JP 08209299	08-13-1996	Nippon Steel	Abstract	
		Abst. JP11061320	03-05-1999	Kougi KK	Abstract	
		JP11061320	03-05-1999	Kougi KK	Abstract	
		Abst. JP02030730	02-01-1990	Hitachi Metals	Abstract	
		JP02030730	02-01-1990	Hitachi Metals	Abstract	
		Abst. JP03013542	01-22-1991	Kubota Corp.	Abstract	

Examiner Signature	Deborah Yell	Date Considered	5-25-05
-----------------------	--------------	--------------------	---------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.